

Arizona News Release

Issued by
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Press Release Announcement - December 7, 2005 - For Immediate Release

NASS WILL CONDUCT THE 2006 CATTLE AND SHEEP SURVEYS

Phoenix, Arizona, December 7, 2005 – The United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the 2006 January Cattle and Sheep Surveys this winter to gather reliable information about cattle and sheep inventories in all states. Cattle and sheep producer's will be asked to report during the Dec. 29 – Jan. 12 data collection period.

“Because of the unique issues and challenges facing today's ranchers, producers' participation in this survey is vital,” said Steve Manheimer, Director of the NASS Arizona Field Office. “Only by contacting operations directly can NASS compile and publish the most reliable statistics possible.”

Having quality information enables USDA and the cattle and sheep industries to be more responsive to the American and international public, increase consumer understanding and awareness, and establish an appreciation for the safety and health benefits of U.S. beef and lamb products.

NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses. Data collected from individual operations are combined with other responses to provide the needed data. We will not disclose any data about an individual operation.

NASS will publish the *2006 Cattle Report and 2006 Sheep Report* with State and national estimates on January 27, 2006. For a copy of these reports or to obtain other agricultural statistics visit our Web site at www.nass.usda.gov/az or call (800) 645-7286.

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